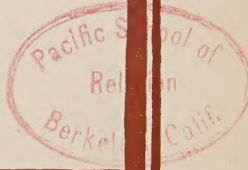


# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



## A SCENE IN THE HOMELAND

Distributing Scriptures supplied by the American Bible Society at a noon-hour  
Chicago street meeting



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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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## Story of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-four

*Again an issue of the RECORD is devoted to a condensed review of the last year of endeavor in world-wide Bible circulation by the American Bible Society. This review follows practically the report of the Board of Managers, omitting references to changes in the officers, and to some of the special items and incidents of the year, all of which were treated more fully at the time in the pages of the RECORD. Some of the details of the Treasurer's report are also here omitted. But the Treasurer has presented this year especially informing explanations on the financial and publication activities of the Society. Those interested in such important, if prosaic, facts will find his statements illuminating. They will commend themselves to careful business men. Any desiring the full Report of the Board of Managers may obtain it on application. The full Annual Report, a volume of 400 pages or so, to be issued in the fall as usual, will present, in addition to the Managers' Report, the detailed reports of the Executive Officers and the Home and Foreign Agencies and Correspondents. Here the story of the past year begins with the fundamental work of translation and revision.*

### Translation and Revision

**L**ANGUAGE is a living, flowing stream. Nowhere is this more impressively brought to mind than in the activities of this Society, which has to deal with the questions of translation and revision in many languages all over the world.

Even in the English language it has been occupied during the year, making a study of the distinctions between the English used in American versions and the English used in British versions of the Bible. There are no serious differences, but many important variations between the usages abroad and the usages in the United States. There is no Academy to fix and determine the exact usage in America. Various authorities and advisers, therefore, have had to be consulted, and their work laid before the Committee on Versions.

Yiddish revision has gone forward during the year, and the revision of the Gospel of Matthew by Mr. Henry Einspruch, of Baltimore, has been completed and will be issued in a tentative edition during 1925.

Some progress has been made in the prepara-

tion of translations in North-American Indian languages,—Cheyenne, Cherokee, etc.,—but nothing has been completed.

Further progress has been made in co-operation with missionaries at work in Central America, in the translation of the Scriptures into a number of Indian languages, particularly in the Quiche dialect and the Cakchiquel dialect in Guatemala.

The translation of the Gospel of Matthew into Valiente, to which reference was made a year ago, was completed. This language is spoken by the Valiente Indians of the Republic of Panama. They occupy the Valiente Peninsula and the mountains of the interior on the north of the Isthmus about one hundred

miles east of the Bible House at Cristobal. They are exceedingly primitive in life and customs. The translation is the work of Mr. E. S. Alphonse, a young Panamanian, who, nine months after his conversion, decided to devote his life to winning this people for Christ. As a result of sacrificial devotion, a Christian community has come into being, and after seven years of unrelenting labor the language



MR. ALPHONSE (in black) AND SOME OF THE CHRISTIAN WORKERS HE HAS GATHERED



has been reduced to writing and a manuscript copy of a grammar, a vocabulary, and this Gospel of Matthew produced.

In South America, the work for the Aymaras is still in progress, and the Rev. W. F. Jordan has visited Cuzco, the missionary center of Arco, and the Adventists' Normal School at Juliaca, in connection with the revision of the Peruvian Quechua.

A special commission was created during the year by missionary societies at work in Latin America to promote general missionary work among the Indians of Latin America. This commission will bring to the attention of the Society many opportunities for assisting in meeting the needs of these neglected people. This is one of the subjects to be considered by the congress in Montevideo, for which considerable preparation was made during the year.

The Society has assembled all the errata in the early editions of the Revised Brazilian Portuguese Bible, and has been correcting its plates for all further editions.

For Africa, the Revised Zulu Bible was completed and forwarded to the field in time for the annual gathering of the Natal Missionary Conference. This was enthusiastically received. In Bulu, the revision of the New Testament has been undertaken and work has been begun on the manuscripts which have been received from the field. The Society has been at work upon a translation of the Gospel of John by the Rev. E. H. Greeley, of Umtali, Rhodesia, South Africa. Further work has been undertaken in the following Epistles in Olunyore: I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. A new and revised edition of the Scriptures in Luragoli was completed.

A revision of the Gospel of John in a language called Shulla, spoken by the people along the White Nile and its tributary, the Sobat River, was prepared and finished in November, 1924. A melancholy interest attaches to this version from the fact that, only a few days after its completion, Mr. Cuthbert B. Guthrie, the senior member of the committee, died, and very shortly thereafter Mrs. Guthrie also passed away, leaving four little orphan children.

In the Philippines, in connection with the casting of plates to take the place of those destroyed by the earthquake, there have been seven revision and correction committees working at the same time in different parts of the Islands. These are made up for the most part of missionaries and native workers set up at considerable cost to the missionary societies. Not only have the missions given their best missionary linguists to this work, but they have

also given their leading native workers, in order that the committees might be composed of the best material possible. The American Bible Society is grateful to these missions, and the missions feel justified in knowing that better Bibles make for a more numerous ingathering of souls and a happier Christian body. These committees have been at work upon the Ilocano, the Bicol, the Cebuan, the Panayan, which needed only minor corrections, the Tagalog, the Pampangan, and the Pangasinan.

In Siam, beginnings have been made in the revision of the Siamese New Testament and in revising the Gospel of Matthew in Tai Ya.

Co-operation with the British and Foreign Bible Society in the revision of the Canton Colloquial Scriptures has been approved. The necessary revision of the Japanese Old Testament has been delayed.

## Issues

The story of the issues during the year under review is one of real encouragement, although the total is less than that of the previous year by approximately half a million. This is easily explained by two facts: that the issue of portions from the Bible House, New York, was less by over 700,000 in 1924 than for the previous year; and that some of the Foreign Agencies reported for eleven months, ending November 30, 1924. The issues in our Foreign Agencies were practically half a million greater than the previous year, the total being 3,687,362 volumes. The total of issues in the United States was 2,907,693, while the foreign correspondents reported the issues for the year to be 57,244. The record of the year for the whole world field of the American Bible Society shows 392,798 Bibles, 496,597 Testaments, 5,762,904 Portions; or a total issue of 6,652,299 volumes.

### Issues of 109 Years

The total issues of the Society in the one hundred and nine years of its service have been ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED AND SEVEN THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX (164,907,176) VOLUMES.

## Distribution

### In the United States

"Beginning first at Jerusalem," the American Bible Society would be untrue to its very fundamental principle, did it not value supremely the importance of caring for its own household. World wide in its interests, the Society is nation wide in its organization, and as such makes it of first importance to seek to put the Scriptures into every home and bring them to



every individual throughout the United States.

This last year, the work has been extensive as well as intensive; already operating directly through nine Home Agencies, a new one, the National Capital Agency, has been organized, covering the District of Columbia, and the states of Maryland and Delaware. These Home Agencies, together with the state and local auxiliaries, bring practically the entire country under one organization for the all important work of giving the Scriptures to the people.

A more intensive effort has been put forth, during the past year, to secure co-operation on the part of individuals and churches in the distribution of the volumes. In the state of New York, for example, circular letters were sent to every evangelical church, soliciting this co-operation. About five hundred churches responded to this appeal, purchasing books for distribution in their respective communities.

*Donations* — Grants have been made in increasing numbers to individuals and to institutions. From the Blue Ridge and Appalachian areas come stories of missionary workers using these Bibles as textbooks, when teaching old and young to read. One old man of sixty-nine was spurred to the task of learning to read by his desire to read the Book he loved. A social worker in migrant cannery camps reported distribution made easy by reason of interest in Bible study groups. A chaplain writes, "The Testaments have been distributed, and have been a great help. Thank you for the gift." The policy of the "sales where possible and grants where necessary" has been strictly adhered to. Hundreds of Bibles have been sent to the schools for Indian children, and are being used as textbooks and in religious teaching. Hazel Wounded Horse writes, "My mother was very glad I earned my Bible. We are all glad we got our new Bible."

*Colored People* — The social and religious problem of the colored people presents increasingly peculiar and perplexing difficulties. Moving northward across the Mason and Dixon line at the rate of seven hundred a day, these awakened people are forming communities in industrial and popular centers of the North.

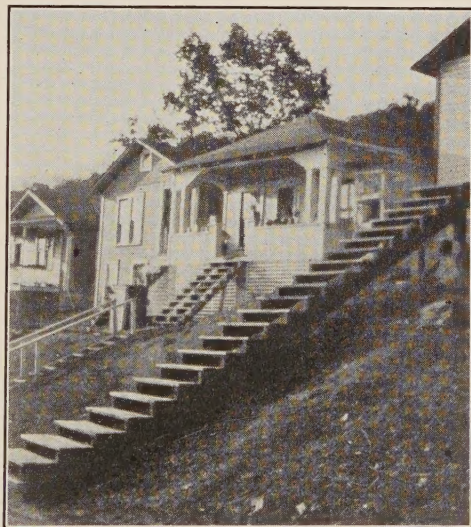
They are not transients. They are starting a new life, and, although naturally religious, they are facing the great temptation to drop out of their former religious life. It is not easy to set up new schools and especially churches. The Agency for the Colored People is putting forth herculean efforts to meet this problem and see that these people are supplied with the Scriptures.

*Army and Navy* — The Society continues to adhere to its wartime policy of supplying the Army and Navy with Scriptures. Large grants were made to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station at Evanston, Ill. The chaplain in charge expresses great appreciation for the help, which was never sufficient to fully supply the constant stream of recruits passing through that great training station. Veterans' camps and hospitals have been supplied in whole or in part.

Churches and Sunday schools continue to look upon the Bible Society as their source of supply for Sunday school and church service Scriptures. By centering attention upon our standard books prepared for this purpose, we have been able to announce most satisfactory editions at prices beyond competition by commercial houses.

Perhaps in no other phase of the work is there a greater inspiration than in the supplying of the individual homes with copies of the Word. A burly colored man came into the office one day, and with great bash-

fulness announced that he had just been married, and, in setting up their new home in a modest apartment in the great city, his bride had insisted that they might get along with a little less furniture, but they could not get along without a family Bible. It is needless to say that he was supplied. Would that every newly founded home might be thus supplied. The great question confronting the Society is how to locate such homes, and how to supply them. A deplorable lack of knowledge of, and love for, the Scriptures on the part of so many of the young people makes all the more necessary the service of the Bible worker, who goes from home to home, carrying his books, seeking to create and supply the demand for the same.



A FEW OF THE STEPS TAKEN BY A COLPORTEUR 75 YEARS OLD, IN HIS 18TH YEAR OF SERVICE WITH THE SOCIETY



*Penny Gospels* — In the operations of the Society the missionary nature of the work is constantly held in mind. There is no attempt to compete with commercial firms. Although the Society publishes well-bound editions of the Scriptures, it does not specialize in de luxe editions. Emphasis is placed upon the purely missionary editions. The Penny Gospels have been widely advertised, and nearly two millions of them circulated through the Home Agency organizations. This is a part of the program to bring the gospel message as nearly as possible to every individual.

*The Blind* — Another phase of special service which the Society is glad to render, is the supply of Scriptures in embossed systems to those handicapped with blindness. Both for the blind and for the Society, the difficulty and expense of this supply continue because of the six different systems still in use in the United States. The effort to make the new Revised Braille Grade 1½ the one system for the United States is succeeding particularly among the young, as practically all the schools and workers for the blind are in favor of, and pushing, this system. However, the largest circulation during the year was in the New York Point system, the Revised Braille Grade 1½ being a close second; the Moon system being third, the American Braille, English Braille, and Line Letter following in the order named. A total of 1,929 volumes was issued in these six systems during 1924. As the Society offers these books at a special price of \$1 a volume, although they cost on an average nearer \$5, even when sold the Society has to finance the major cost of each book. And several hundred volumes were outright donations. The correspondence of the Society bears abundant evidence that the blind are appreciative of this special service. Since the Society began its work for the blind ninety years ago, by a grant made to the inventor of the Line Letter system, Dr. S. G. Howe, in 1835, for his pioneering experiments, it has issued, to the end of 1924, 65,411 of these embossed volumes, each one of which is equivalent in bulk to 250, and in cost to 500, ordinary ink print Gospels.

*Broadcasting* — The enthusiasm attached to the broadcasting of the Scriptures by radio has led to the undertaking of this method of "circulating" the Scripture message in several sections of the country. It is a part of the daily program in both San Francisco and New York, and is also undertaken independently by broadcasting stations in the Central states.

The total circulation through the Home Agencies last year amounted to 217,620 Bibles, 212,625 Testaments, and 1,855,930 portions; a total of 2,286,175 volumes, as compared with

the 2,104,226 volumes the preceding year. This shows a healthy and substantial increase. Although a large percentage of this increase is in the smaller portions, if we reduce the output to chapters, it amounts to 371,081,821 chapters in 1924, as against 254,409,125 in 1921, each intervening year showing a proportionate part of the increase. This is as it should be,—not sporadic spurts of circulation, but a healthy continuous increase in the output of the Word. In addition to the circulation by the Home Agencies, the state and local societies have borne their part in circulating the Scriptures in their respective areas. The Maine and Massachusetts Bible Societies carry on their systematic county by county canvass. The Maryland Bible Society makes a specialty of utilizing college students during vacation. The Pennsylvania Bible Society, the Virginia Bible Society, the Cincinnati Young Men's Bible Society, and the Chicago Bible Society co-operate fully, as do more local societies, and all unite in the heartiest good will and effort to bring true the motto of the Society, "A Bible in Every Home."

### In Latin America

The attention of the Society has been centered on its Latin-American field in an unusual way because of the plans maturing, during the year, for a Congress on Christian Work in South America, to be held in Montevideo in the early spring of 1925. All of the missionary organizations having work in South America associated in the Committee on Co-operation in Latin America have been unusually busy in the preliminary studies of the situation on the field, making ready for reports for certain important commissions, to receive consideration at the congress. These commissions are: Unoccupied Fields of Service, Indians of South America, Education, Evangelism, Social Movements in South America, Health Ministry, The Church in the Community, Religious Education, Literature, Relations between the Foreign and National Workers, Special Religious Problems, and Co-operation and Unity. The work of translating, publishing, and circulating the Scriptures has its relations to all of these commissions.

The American Bible Society is the only society represented in the congress that has work in every country of Latin America; though there are a number of societies whose activities and expenditures in the countries in which they are at work are much larger than those of the American Bible Society.

### La Plata

The representatives on the field have been looking forward to this congress, which is held



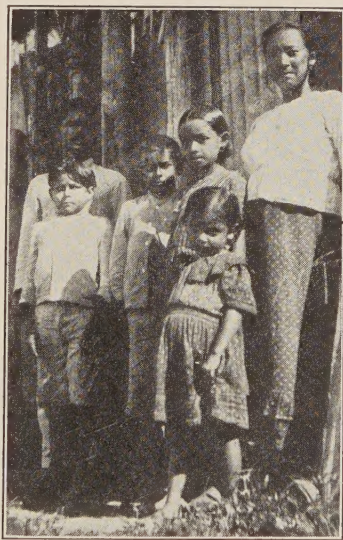
within the area of the La Plata Agency. Mr. Paul Penzotti, Secretary for this Agency, says: "We welcome all these workers. A good deal of interest is being manifested in this congress. Uruguay celebrates, during 1925, the one hundredth anniversary of its Declaration of Independence. Scriptures are being prepared, with the Uruguayan flag on the cover." He writes: "This is a most progressive little republic, with nearly two million inhabitants. Montevideo, the capital, is a beautiful city of 400,000 people. We are glad to report that we now have a small bookroom, centrally located, in this city." He gives us this interesting information: "One of our old Italian workers is in the Waldensian Colony in the interior of Uruguay. This strong and influential church pays his salary, while we furnish the books. The pastor of the Waldensian Church writes: 'Mr. Colosimo has started to work in our midst, and does not lose one minute. He is very active, and his work is truly helpful to our interests. His fidelity and childlike sympathy and humility are inspiring.'"

Twenty-five colporteurs are employed in this field, most of them scattered all over the extensive area, traveling into the interior on horseback and on foot. These are under the direct supervision of the Secretary. Others are under the supervision of the missionaries and native pastors. Two hundred and two correspondents, as they are called, are serving in this work. One of these workers, a Mr. Gray, narrates this experience: "I was passing along the road in Entre Rios. As I approached, a boy shouted, 'Colporteur,' in a very excited manner. As I hesitated to approach, not knowing the reason for so much emotion, the father came out and was also visibly excited. It turned out that they were Stundists from the German frontier of Poland, who had lost everything during the war, and in coming out to Argentina had also lost their Bible. This I was able to supply, and also some for his neighbors. He drove me into town to get these books, and I could see how he greatly rejoiced to possess the Word of God again. They told me that colporteurs occasionally passed their homes in Poland, and they had hoped that many years would not pass before they would see one again and get a Bible."

### Brazil

In Brazil, where one of the regional conferences was to precede the Montevideo Congress, the Secretary reports a good year. He says: "The circulation and reading of the Scriptures is one of the outstanding features in the progress and development of Protestant missionary work in Brazil. The accumulated testimony as to the value and power of the written Word has impressed the preachers, missionaries, and natives with the importance of circulating the Scriptures among the people as a means of evangelizing. The missionary opens a hall and delivers his oral message; but he invariably reads from a book. The question immediately arises, Where can the book be found? It is not in the bookstores in the community. Therefore the Scriptures are placed in the hands of the missionaries to answer such calls."

A very large part of the Scripture circulation in Brazil is associated with the growing churches and schools, which require large supplies; and because the Scriptures must be sold at less than their cost, it does not give as much margin as there should be for extensive visitation of large untouched areas of the country. The Secretary, however, is using every opportunity to reach out into the far-away settlements up the Amazon and in the heart of the republic. He relates a story of the trip of one of his workers up the Amazon. He stopped one night at a small settlement and talked to the people of the Bible, read a few passages, and sold a copy or two. Later he was returning, coming down



A BRAZILIAN FRIEND AND DISTRIBUTOR OF THE BIBLE, WITH HIS FAMILY

along the opposite river bank. The river is very wide for great distances. It was known in the little community referred to that he was spending the night and would speak in the small settlement on the opposite bank of the river. An old lady, over one hundred years of age, who had heard the reading and had become intensely interested, insisted on being rowed across the wide river at night, that she might again hear the preaching of the gospel and secure a Bible. She had lived a century without knowing of the Bible or having heard the preaching of the gospel. Light and a great joy came into her soul.

Another missionary located far back in the state of Maranhão in the valley of the great Araguaia, visited a community where a copy



of the Scriptures had been left some years before. He found that the book had been read; one person after another had become interested in it and fallen under its influence, until fourteen were enjoying a knowledge of the truth and the experience of saving faith in Christ.

It is amazing to read of the religious prejudice that prevails in this country in which our workers have suffered: their Scriptures have been taken from them, have been torn and burned, but they have kept on, and the persecution has only created new interest. A Presbyterian missionary, stationed at Oliveira in Minas Geraes, described a burning of the Scriptures, as printed in the December, 1924, RECORD. Some of the burnt leaves of the Bible were gathered and photographed; and it appears that the Bible burned was the Figueiredo Version, made from the Vulgate and approved by Roman Catholic authorities, the Queen of Portugal, and the Archbishop of Lisbon, in 1842."

#### Upper Andes

In the regions of Bolivia and Peru across the Andes from Brazil, the same colportage work goes forward. The Rev. W. F. Jordan writes of the way in which the Indian peons in Bolivia have received the Scriptures and built a church under the auspices of the Canadian Baptist Mission; and they have worked themselves on their new church building, speaking of it constantly as "our church." The same story of persecution for their faith, referred to in Brazil, occurred there, in which a group of men—landowners and others—entered a town and severely beat the men who had invited the mission to Collana. They then took four of the Indian converts to the town of Calamarca, where they put them in jail, with nothing to eat. The following day the helpless Indians were started on foot, in charge of some soldiers, to the town of Sicasica, seventy-five miles away. They were given no food en route, and on arrival they were put in jail, with nothing to eat. "Give up the gospel or starve," was the ultimatum offered by the priest and other persecutors. "We will starve then," replied the Indians. The superintendent of the mission, on hearing of the arrest of these converts, followed on after them, taking food with him; and this food which he brought them was the first that they had eaten in five days. By going from one official to another, he succeeded in securing their release. These Indians erected themselves an adobe church building, capable of seating 1,000 persons.

Another almost unbelievable story is narrated of a young student in La Paz, who saw the notice of the opening of a Bible school for the training of Christian workers in far-away

Guatemala, Central America. He was so determined to go, that he might be prepared for religious work among his people, that he got together sufficient money to take him to Lima, Peru. Here he found employment with a carpenter until an opportunity offered to work his way as a stoker on board a freighter as far as Panama. Instead of sailing for Panama, the steamer started south and spent some time visiting the ports on the Chilian coast. Reaching Panama, finally, a month later than he had anticipated, he packed his grip and came on deck prepared to land, only to find that the steamer steamed through the Canal and the bay on the Atlantic side out to sea, bound for New York, without giving him the opportunity to get ashore! Disappointed, he went back to the stokehole. Discharged in New York one wintry Sunday morning, on leaving the wharf he was searched by the police. Finding a Bible among his possessions, one of the officials directed him to a Quaker Sunday school. Then his fortunes took a sudden change. Verifying his story by wire, friends he met there received him into their homes; money was supplied, and in a few days he was traveling by Pullman to New Orleans, where he took a steamer for Guatemala's eastern port and arrived finally at school. Graduating after three years of training, he had inspired such confidence that the Friends Church of Guatemala is supporting him and his young wife as their missionaries to Bolivia. He is helping forward Bible work among the Indians of Bolivia, into whose language he hopes some day to help translate the Gospels.

#### Caribbean Agency

The other fields of Latin America are not immediately associated with the Montevideo Congress, as that has to do with work in South America. The Caribbean Agency is related in part, through its work in Venezuela. Mr. Gregory, writing of that work, says that too much credit cannot be given to the Rev. Gerard Bailly, who for many years has been the representative of our Society in that republic, and through whose efforts many thousands of Scriptures have been circulated.

The Caribbean field, with the addition of Venezuela, makes it possible for the Secretary to boast that he is circulating the Scriptures under ten flags. A change is coming over Central America. The field is becoming better manned with missionary workers. For many years the Bible Society's colporteurs were the principal evangelistic workers in the region. Now the missionary societies are feeling their responsibility, and the Bible Society is changing its method and depending more on co-operation



with missionaries, placing Scriptures in the hands of colporteurs whom they direct.

During the year, the Rev. G. P. Simmonds, who was on furlough after seven years of missionary service in Ecuador under the Christian and Missionary Alliance, was secured for Bible work. Mr. Simmonds is a sort of colporteur-at-large and a superintendent of colporteurs. He has visited the missionaries, encouraged the native congregations by special evangelistic services, taking bands of young men with him to the various towns, and helped the missionaries to reach hitherto untouched places. His 6 feet 2 inches in stature command respect and attention. He is full of enthusiasm, with a sunny disposition; a good speaker, possessing a rich bass voice. With his natural equipment, to which was added a folding organ and a stereopticon, he spent five months in Colombia.

*Cristobal Bible House* — The Bible House at Cristobal continues to render a unique service to the whole region round about. The Secretary is giving it a new name, calling it "The House by the Crossroads." During the year one hundred and fifteen missionary guests, representing eighteen societies, availed themselves of the hospitality of "The House by the Crossroads" while waiting from a day to three weeks for a ship to take them to their destination.

#### West Indies

In the West Indies, 67,400 volumes of the Word have been distributed through all the Islands during this year; and in spite of this quantity, which represents the largest distribution ever made in this territory during the last eight years, many missionaries have not been able to receive even half of the books which they asked for. What is the reason? Let all lovers of the Bible listen to the Secretary, who writes: "Many correspondents have not been able to obtain what they needed, because the appropriation was exhausted." None of these Scriptures, even when sold, returns to the Society that which it costs the Society to produce and place them on the field. The limit to the circulation is fixed by the limit to the appropriation.

*Porto Rico* — The sub-Agent in Porto Rico, Mr. Rey Lind, writes to Dr. Marcial-Dorado: "Porto Rico is a small island, and all its towns and villages are easily connected. A very intense work is thus effected, and the books are very quickly distributed. For this reason it will be understood that a very much larger appropriation is needed. All of our books are given a discount of 40 to 50 per cent, and some even 60 per cent of their value, thus assisting our workers in every way.

*Dominican Republic* — Mr. Johnson, of the

Dominican Republic, writes to Dr. Marcial-Dorado: "Bibles, Bibles, is the motto with which I have to begin and end my report. All those you are sending us are doing a great deal of good. Do your utmost to let us have all the Bibles we need."

*Haiti* — One of our friends, the bishop of Haiti, is troubled because the Scriptures are not in larger print; but larger-print books are more expensive, and the difficulty again is the appropriation. A colporteur in Cuba who has gone through four provinces writes: "I never believed, when I started out on my work as a colporteur, that I should be able to sell or distribute such a large quantity of books." Another, covering two provinces, says: "My work among the colonies of Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans has given me much pleasure. Wherever I have been in these provinces among these Asiatics, they have readily received the Word of God." Another, we are happy to say, writes: "I have been very gratified with the way in which many unconverted have heard the Word. Various priests of the Roman Church have bought Gospels from me, and generally I have had no difficulty in my work."

Dr. Marcial-Dorado has had conferences with clubs and commercial societies or educational establishments in which he has spoken on "The Bible in the World," "The Bible in America," "The Bible for the Educated," "The Bible as the Fountain of Prosperity," "The Bible as the Government for the People." He writes: "The nonreligious daily papers have always willingly received any notices we have sent them, and have always published any reports about our work." One hundred and fifty-six special services were held in the churches on Bible Sunday. The offerings amounted to \$1,349.00, which, according to the practice of the Society, is retained on the field for its work.

#### Mexico

In Mexico, the Rev. Arthur H. Mellen has been on furlough, and he took his furlough visiting the work of the Society in Japan, China and the Philippines. His story of his experiences is very interesting, as he narrates the way in which our friends in Japan and in China and in the Philippines listened to his stories on distribution in Mexico and sent messages of love and affection to the workers in Mexico; so that his movements here and there were a creative influence of Christian fellowship. He says that he met two of the Christian generals of the Chinese army and talked to a large group of Chinese soldiers, and writes: "I could feel the companionship of all the Bible-reading Mexicans with me, as I stood in the hollow square and waited for the interpreter to repeat



my words to the men. The power of the printed Word over the hearts of men came to me as a new conviction as they held up their Testaments. I told them of the poor Mexicans who wanted to help China as well as Japan by giving their coppers to aid in the restoration of the printing house in Tokyo. And the story, and the pictures of Christian generals and Bible-reading soldiers, is a good one to tell to the people of Mexico." In Manila, he writes, "The congregations and Sunday-school children in Mexico did not know at the time that their gifts for Japan were going to help their brothers in the Philippines more than others."

He speaks enthusiastically of the work of Mr. H. T. Marroquin, who is his chief assistant in Mexico City, and who had charge of the work during his absence. Under the auspices of Mr. Marroquin, a three-day institute for

siderable. It was also deemed wise to transfer Mr. S. T. Cassapi and his family to Beirut, where he is now at work keeping account for both the Levant and the Arabic-Levant Agencies. For the first time in our relationships with the American Press, we have a representative residing at the press, supervising all our work. The Agency Secretary, the Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, left the field in August for his furlough, and the Levant Agency has been under the care of the Rev. J. Oscar Boyd, D.D., Secretary of the Arabic-Levant Agency.

*Turkey*—The field of the Levant Agency has been greatly circumscribed owing to the postwar situation. In the republics of the Caucasus no Bible work has been possible, the Bolshevik régime in those states being especially hostile to any religious teaching or efforts to circulate the Bible. There is little work done

ARMENIAN  
MAIDENS IN  
ONE OF THEIR  
FOLK DANCES  
AT ALEPPO



The Scriptures supplied by the American Bible Society help to keep them cheerful and hopeful, despite hardship and persecution.

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colporteurs was planned, so as to come just before the opening of the National Sunday School Convention in San Luis Potosi.

The circulation for the year is good, and Mr. Mellen writes: "One thing we are thankful for is the use of practically one language."

## The Near and the Far East

### Levant Agency

Important changes have taken place in the Levant Agency. As the Turkish Government carried off all machinery of the Matteosian plant in the Bible House, and as there was no other firm in the city capable of doing our work, we were obliged to send out electrotype plates to the American Press in Beirut. Our printing and binding are now being done at this center. Thus, for the first time in the history of the Agency, all printing of the Scriptures in Constantinople has been given up. This adds decidedly to our relationships to the American Press, which already were most con-

on Turkish territory for various reasons, chief among which may be mentioned the conditions under which Turkey is governed at the present time, and the expulsion and emigration from the country of most of the Christian population. Colportage may practically be considered an impossibility. It is only in Constantinople that any colporteurs were engaged in work during the year. These were old servants of the Society, each one having been in its service for more than thirty years. One of these, a Greek, was arrested and sent to Greece with his family as "exchangeable." We are happy to report, however, that the colporteurs at Constantinople were left unmolested by the government officials in their selling of Scriptures.

Bulgaria, Macedonian Greece, and Syria show considerable progress in the acceptance of the Holy Scriptures. The colporteurs in Syria and Greece are working among the refugees from the Turkish portions of the Levant Agency. We are happy to report a change from the bigotry of former



times to enlightened views in Greece. Our colporteurs are now permitted to enter freely hospitals, carrying messages of comfort to the sufferers. Good work is also done among men of the Greek Army. A considerable number of books have been given free of charge to the orphanages, hospitals, and schools through the instrumentality of the American Near East Relief. In Bulgaria, our depository remains in the same shop on a broad and very busy street. "The place has become popular as the only place in Sofia where Scriptures can be obtained. Bishops, priests, professors, and government officials have been among the customers."

In closing his report, Mr. Ryan emphasizes the fact that these are the lands which gave us the Bible. In these Near Eastern lands lived, labored, and died the persons who wrote every word that we have in the Holy Scriptures. If those to whom this trust was committed had

All were in attendance, except two in the Sudan, and the one farthest up the Nile in Egypt, and two who did not speak Arabic. The Secretary says: "We are gratified that there are more and more Christians each year who feel it their duty to help personally in the distribution among the Moslems. But this is sporadic and on a limited scale. It is only through the regular paid colporteur that we can count on reaching the masses of the people with the Word." One of the Cairo colporteurs says: "God has opened the way for me to distribute the Bible among students in the government schools. These schools are closed only on Friday, the Mohammedan Sabbath, and some pious Coptic leaders have opened their Coptic churches on Friday of each week, so that the students can gather in them to be taught something about their religion. I sell many copies of the Bible to the students there."

KURDS AND ARABS AT A COFFEE HOUSE IN THE NEAR EAST, A FAVORITE PLACE FOR THE MISSIONARIES AND COLPORTEURS TO DISTRIBUTE AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURES



THE "KAFA-DJI" IS POURING COFFEE FOR ONE OF HIS PATRONS, WHILE OTHERS ARE SMOKING THE "NARGILEH" HE SUPPLIES

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been faithful to the trust, what a different story would be told today!

#### Arabic-Levant Agency

In the Arabic-Levant, the work of manufacturing Arabic Scriptures to supply the demands of this part of the world has proceeded at a greatly accelerated pace. The preceding year showed a total of volumes manufactured more than fifty per cent above the annual average. This year it is three and one-third the annual average, and twice last year's total.

*Egypt* — In the department of distribution the same story of expansion is recorded. The circulation of 146,000 is a ratio of increase of 86 per cent. Even in the total number of languages and scripts, there is a gain of one more than in the preceding year. Twenty colporteurs have been at work throughout the year in Egypt and Sudan. These men visited 842 towns and villages, with an increase of 10,361 copies in the circulation. One of the most interesting occasions during the year was the conference of colporteurs held in Cairo.

Up the Nile a priest, to a group of Christians whom he found gathered in a private house for Bible reading and prayer, objected to a colporteur's praying, saying that prayer was one of the rites and duties of priests alone. Another colporteur, however, states that at the close of a meeting where he and a priest were both present, the leader turned to the priest and asked him to dismiss the people with prayer; but the priest said, "Let the colporteur dismiss you with prayer."

*Palestine* — In the other direction, in Palestine, "colportage is greatly hindered by the absence of any small coins." "The past year marked the opening of a new depository of the Society in Jerusalem. The Bible Evangelistic Mission has secured a house in a very central location near the Damascus Gate. They have set apart a suitable room on the ground floor as a Bible shop and reading room. Arabic, English, Hebrew, and other Scriptures are for sale here."

From Mesopotamia and Arabia word comes of "slow, silent penetration."



### The Philippines

In the Philippines, the great task has been recovery from the Yokohama earthquake, in which every one of the fourteen thousand printing plates used for Filipino Scriptures was lost, to say nothing of printed Bibles and Testaments. Plate making and electrotyping have now become a process which moves along in a more or less regular procedure. The Secretary, the Rev. George B. Cameron, writes: "Obviously printing in Manila is highly advantageous, especially so now that printing prices in Japan since the war have risen to a level above that of Manila." He intimates also that it is good publicity for the Society to have its work done in Manila. Very considerable headway was made during the year in the preparation of the plates; but it will be the end of 1925 before the work of rehabilitation is completed. The circulation in the Philippines is effected by colportage, missionary and native distributors, depository and mail order sales. Colportage has always been a big problem; and it has taken many years of experimentation in order to arrive at a successful solution. Mr. Cameron seems to think that this successful solution lies in the use of colportage leaders covering a wide circuit and having attached to them men who assist them and who receive training from them. One of these leaders in the northern part of the Philippines has been most successful, especially in the fiesta season. He has a truck that provides sleeping quarters for himself and two men, and has painted on the outside the open and closed Bible. Another leader of colportage in the south is a retired American soldier, converted a few years ago in a very striking manner and happy ever since in his new found Christian life. He needs a fair-sized motor boat that can be used in close interisland work.

There has sprung up a new demand for books among the school children, because they are compelled to memorize certain of the Psalms in class work. The English circulation is about half that of the total dialect circulation.

The Secretary has met with a very considerable success in advertising in different papers in various parts of the country, and a large

distribution is being effected that way. The Filipinos are becoming a reading nation. There are really three classes in the Islands: the Spanish, or *ilustrado*,—the upper class; the Tao, or lower class; and the most recent group the *studente*, or English-speaking. This last-mentioned class is rapidly increasing and bids fair to control the life of the nation.

### Siam

The Rev. Robert Irwin was away from the field a part of the year on furlough, and owing to this and certain other absences from the field the circulation in Siam has fallen off a little. Here, as everywhere apparently in the world, the increased cost of living is an element in the problem; but, from a part of Siam, this



A TIU WOMAN ON THE BORDERS OF SIAM

pathetic word comes: "This year's rice is costing very heavy indeed. We started by paying 25 per cent advance on last year, then 50 per cent, and now it is costing almost double last year's price. This is due to the cultivation of opium the last four years. Before that, the cultivation was practically suppressed. In 1916, I made an extended tour through much the same territory I have traveled this touring season. In fifty-five days we did not see a field of poppies. This year, in many sections, on a tour of sixty-seven days, we saw poppy fields everywhere. In some sections, from one-half to three-quarters of the upland is given to poppy cultivation, and the price of rice is from two to three times as high as in the other small

sections where the poppy is not cultivated. Many people will not have enough to live on. Many children are now so underfed that they cannot resist disease, and they will die. Circulating the Scriptures in such regions is very difficult."

A pioneer colporteur band, in a journey thirty-eight days distant from Chiengmai, visited the city and district of Muang Baw, where there are only mountains and no level beyond. They lodged at the palace of the governor for many weeks, and held worship there every Sunday. They spent three weeks in the outer villages. The distribution was successful both in the city and country, because of the respect the people have for the books. Whenever any one received a book, he raised his hands in homage before reading; and when he



laid it away, he did the same. "Everyone praised the teachings as truly precious, and studied them diligently." This reads like Berea in the Acts of the Apostles.

#### China

The Rev. Carleton Lacy, writing from China, had to begin his story again with wars, and tumult, and bandits, and rebellion; with streets down which pour long lines of rickshaws and wheelbarrows piled high with bedding rolls and pigskin boxes and bamboo baskets; followed by tottering old countrywomen on their bound feet, and young mothers with their little children fleeing from the ravages of predatory warfare and brigandage, leaving their humble village homes to the mercy—if mercy there be—of unpaid, poorly fed, ill-clothed troops and brigands, who in turn have been deserted by their self-seeking generals. We marvel at this wonderful race that can endure such continued affliction of every sort. We rejoice that steadily onward goes the cause of Christ; and that, while railways are cut and transportation interrupted and schools closed and churches looted and business and travel stopped, the Bible Societies never stop work and, for the year 1924, report the largest circulation that has ever been known. In spite of the anti-Christian movement, more Bibles have been sold. Several riotous student demonstrations have resulted in the wanton destruction of as many copies of the Bible as could be laid hold of. In the face of this studied opposition to the Bible, we find that each of the Bible Societies records some increase in the number of whole Bibles sold; and the largest group of purchasers for whole Bibles is the student group.

One of the interesting developments of the year is the increase in Chinese voluntary workers. The increase of Chinese accounts on the Society's books and the daily increasing volume of Chinese correspondence has grown to such an extent as to require the addition of a Chinese secretary to our staff to care for it. The Secretary is happy in his new and better quarters in Shanghai in the Missions Building, where the Society occupies half of the ground floor.

In Hankow, six hundred miles up the Yangtze, the Society has secured rooms in the new United Lutheran Missions Building. The salesroom faces down three converging streets, and, adjoining it, a delightfully arranged flat is provided for our representative and his family.

Great satisfaction is felt over the prospect of a new handsome building to be erected on

the Hatamen Great Street, in Peking,—the gift of the Maryland Bible Society.

*Co-operation*—The three Bible Societies,—the British and Foreign Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, and the American Bible Society,—are co-operating in a most happy relationship. One of the fruits of these associations has been the publication of an edition of Scriptures with what is termed a "common title page"; that is, the book bears the imprint both of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society.

It has been possible by co-operation to improve the books published and to lower the prices. The only new publication has been the four Gospels printed in a combination of Mandarin character and National Phonetic Script. A feature of this book is the divided page which corresponds to the columns in English Scriptures, but occurs horizontally, so as to break the otherwise long columns. The four Gospels are published separately, and are also bound together; and, for the first time so far as is recorded, a Family Record Bible has been issued in Chinese by the American Bible Society. "While the National Christian Council was stressing the developing of Christian homes, the time seemed ripe to make this contribution, which may give the Bible an added interest to the family group."

*Szechwan*—Away out in Szechwan Mr. Torrance writes: "All's well that ends well. We began our year's work in Szechwan amid strife and turmoil and bloodshed. Yet, we ended it in peace, and with a larger circulation than we at first anticipated. What do you think has protected us more than anything else from the violence of evil? Generals, civil officials, and leading men now know so much of the Scripture, and feel that others know so much, that they would lose face if they refused to protect us."

"On the border, a general, named Chou Si-chen, has openly proclaimed himself a Christian and is working strenuously to turn his soldiers to Christianity. Two months ago we sent in to him two loads of Gospels for them."

#### Japan

Again the thrilling word comes from Japan of an unprecedented increase in the circulation. We reported last year a distribution of 343,588 volumes. The total circulation for 1924 reached 771,774 volumes. This came about largely through the energies and activities of the staff of colporteurs in going out in bands and giving to the people in their need, in the earthquake-stricken part of Tokyo and Yokohama, the little volumes, half a million of which were sent over as a special contribution,



as soon as they could be manufactured by photography, in New York. The typesetting of the Japanese Bibles is a big task, requiring years of time to accomplish. Various reasons enter into this, when it is remembered that practically all type-making enterprises were completely destroyed in 1923. Some have started up again, but as yet they have been unable to supply more than the ordinary type, for which there has been a tremendous demand. Particular care must be exercised in the

people are now studying them more diligently than had been their custom in the past. In Germany, in particular, I found large groups of common people meeting regularly for the study of the Bible. In most cases, these groups were led not by clergymen, but by lay leaders. The Christian Endeavor movement has been especially active in promoting Bible study among its members. In one place in the Black Forest of Germany I found a little mission training school, where on Easter Sunday five thousand people had gathered for a day's prayer and study of the Scriptures. In Italy and other Roman Catholic regions of Central Europe the demand for the Bible increases."

In the northern countries of Europe a correspondent in Norway writes: "I am of the opinion that the demand for the Bible is greater in the northern parts of our country than in the southern parts, especially in the large fishing districts. In one of these fishing places sixteen to twenty thousand men were gathered and offered a most hopeful field." In Sweden, one of our correspondents writes: "We try to help our Sunday schools in giving Bibles to the children. Our economic conditions are weak, and we entreat you to raise your contribution." In Denmark, through the grant of our Society, Bibles and Testaments were circulated in about thirty-five cities, which are proving to be a great blessing to many.



SELLING SCRIPTURES IN A JAPANESE TOWN

Japanese Bible composition. It will require two years more for this Agency to regain the pre-earthquake strength in this respect.

### In Other Lands

The Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, who has since been chosen as one of the General Secretaries of the American Bible Society, continued his visitation of the Bible Societies of Europe and the centers of other groups of service assisted by the American Bible Society, to which reference was made a year ago. Everywhere he found an increased interest in the Scriptures. "The sufferings of the people due to the war and the present economic conditions have resulted in two rather extreme attitudes of mind with regard to religion. One is a Bolshevik attitude of atheism and radicalism and the attempt to destroy all that has been connected with religion in the past. The other, an attempt to find out what Christianity means through a searching of the Scriptures rather than through the dogmas of the ecclesiastical hierarchy. In all these travels I did not find any indications of increased interest in the established churches, but I did find a great demand for Scriptures, and indications that many

In the central areas of Europe, through the headquarters of the Federal Council, in Zurich, by the help of Dr. Adolf Keller, the secretary, and Dr. Adolf Deissmann, the Society was able to assist students in nineteen theological faculties in Europe by grants of Greek New Testaments. Many letters from the deans of these faculties express their gratitude for these gifts.

In France, the distinguished director of the Bible Society of France, Dr. Ernest Bertrand, died December 10, 1924. For some time his son, George Bertrand, has been caring for the interests so dear to the heart of his father. The Society continued its co-operation during the year with this notable Protestant society. A grant in aid also was given to the Bible Society of Paris.

In Belgium, the work conducted under the auspices of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Norton has resulted in a very extensive use of the Scriptures. About 250,000 copies of the Bible, New Testament, the Gospels, and other portions were distributed, in which work the American Bible Society had a considerable share.

In Italy, the Society has continued its co-operation with the Waldensian churches, and the churches of the Methodist Episcopal Conference. Both of these groups report great encouragement. The Society has also con-



tinued its co-operation with the Evangelical Society of Geneva.

Every effort has been made to send Scriptures into Russia. Through Dr. Keller, of Switzerland, Scriptures have been sent to German-speaking congregations; but it has been almost impossible to find any way to send Russian Scriptures into Russia. Packages of books and individual copies that have been forwarded to various places in Russia have been returned opened by the censor with the censor's veto. The Society has assisted in paying the duties on certain shipments which Christian workers in Russia were able to secure through a special license for the purpose. Through the co-operation of one of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a large quantity of Russian Bibles, bound and unbound, found in Moscow, which were to be thrown out because the rooms in which they were stored were needed, were purchased by the American Bible Society for the use of all sorts of Christian workers and Christian households. This, however, has not solved the problem of sending Scriptures into Russia. There is some intimation that it may be possible during the coming year to manufacture Scriptures in Russia; but this is not yet made clear.

In Czechoslovakia, the same opportunities have been open to the Society under the auspices of the American Board Mission, during the year. Mr. Porter gives instance after instance of a great change in a desire for the Scriptures. He writes: "The work is very encouraging. The colporteurs have had interesting experiences with Catholic priests, and in some instances have sold them Bibles."

The Society has made grants of funds to missionary workers in India, in various regions in Africa, and in the Islands of the seas.

## Workers

While the number of workers, including volunteers, has fallen slightly below 3,000—the number recorded the previous year—the facts are that there were a large number of persons actually engaged as colporteurs or correspondents under the American Bible Society in 1924, than in any previous year. The total of colporteurs was 375, and correspondents 1,985; making a total of

2,360, as against 1,880 in 1923. The number of volunteers reported fell to 554. Undoubtedly a larger number participated in this voluntary service, though they all may not have been registered. Of those reported, 788 were engaged in circulating the Scriptures in the United States, and 2,126 in foreign lands; or a grand total of 2,914. The twenty-one Agency Secretaries are not included in the above figures. Again we pay tribute to these vitally important factors in the circulation of the Scriptures in this and in other lands.

## Ways and Means

*Churches*—The total receipts from churches, exclusive of the receipts from the Japanese Earthquake Fund, for the year 1924 were \$276,758.73. An analysis of these receipts shows a slight decrease in the amount received for current expenses during the year 1924 as compared with 1923. However, this decrease may be accounted for by the termination of the special arrangement which the American Bible Society had with the Methodist Episcopal Church in connection with its Centenary program.

As a whole, the churches throughout the country show a steady gain, not only in total amounts contributed, but in the number of churches participating in this particular phase of the Society's work. Increasingly the churches are placing the American Bible Society definitely among the benevolent objects for which they raise funds. Many of the denominations are now setting aside a certain percentage of their benevolent budget to be used by the American Bible Society in the Bible cause. This practice has been aided by the Methodist Episcopal Centenary program.

*Individuals*—The slight decrease in income from churches was more than balanced by the increase in receipts from individuals. In 1923, receipts from this source were \$111,099, and in 1924, \$124,827.98. The increased number of donors indicates the widening interest in the work of the Society.

*Annuity*—The development of the annuity program of the Society during the year 1924 was specially noteworthy. By means of a well-planned program of advertising both in the religious press and through the Society's literature, the number of inquiries received in 1924 was 2,569, as compared with exactly 1,000 in 1923. The total amount received on the annuity basis for the year 1923 was \$321,021. During the year 1924 the receipts for this fund were \$438,624.\* The number of annuity bonds issued in 1924 was 382.

\*These figures represent the gross annuity receipts for the year. Receipts on the annuity basis are held in the annuity reserve fund as described in the paragraph Annuity Reserves under section on Finances.



HE TRAMPED FROM NEW YORK TO SAN FRANCISCO

Always carrying the Book of Proverbs for sale and distribution



*Publicity*—The report of the Publicity Department shows that both the press associations and the religious papers throughout the country gave the Society a generous amount of publicity.

*Bible Sunday*—Another outstanding feature of the Society's program was the use made of Universal Bible Sunday on December 7th. The topic for the literature was "Every Man in His Own Tongue."

Early in November 85,570 packages of literature were sent to active pastors of thirty-five denominations; 1,755 packages were sent to the Home and Foreign Agencies and to the sub-Agencies; 8,016 packages were sent to Sunday-school superintendents, and 1,422 packages were sent to other persons interested,—making a total of 94,763 packages that were sent out for this occasion to the end of the year.

While the policy of the Society is not to use Universal Bible Sunday for appeals for funds, this, perhaps, is our best means of reaching the churches and Sunday schools with literature bearing particularly on some phase of Bible work, and undoubtedly increases the interest of the constituency in the Bible cause.

### Finances

In previous years it has been customary in this statement to give the total income and expenses of the Society. These will appear later in the Treasurer's statement in the Annual Report. We here present the figures that have to do with the budget.\* The year 1924 was the fourth in which the Society operated under a budget, which is carefully prepared at the end of October, two full months before the year to which it applies begins. This budget is no longer an experiment. It has proved its worth and has come to stay. It seems, therefore, better this year to give the statement of income and expenses under the budget:

The total receipts for the year under the budget amounted to.....	\$1,026,163.90
The total expenses under the budget for the year amounted to.....	1,032,906.40
This resulted in excess of expenses over income of.....	6,742.50

As, however, \$22,000 of the money expended under the budget was applied to the Japanese earthquake account, the regular work of the Society was carried on well within the income received.

### Reserve Funds

There are also certain reserve funds which have been set up during the past year or two

by the Board of Managers, and additions were made to all of these funds during the year.

### Legacy Equalization Fund

Thus \$14,238.23 was added to the legacy equalization fund. The purpose of this fund is to enable the Society to create a stable source of income from legacies. No source of income can fluctuate more widely and be less subject to control. By establishing such a reserve, the Society is in a position to supplement a year of lean receipts with amounts stored up in the reserve from more prosperous periods. The need for such a fund is obvious, when it is noted that in 1919, 1921, and 1922 receipts from legacies were well under \$60,000.

### Annuity Reserves

Another source of income which does not appear in the budget is the amount added to the annuity reserve. The policy of the Society is to retain and invest the full amount of principal paid to it by all those who purchase its annuity bonds. In addition to retaining this amount, an annuity reserve has been created to take care of the excess of payments to the annuitants over income. This adds a further considerable element of strength to the whole annuity program. During 1924, \$80,524.28 was added; so that the annuity reserve now equals \$104,273.18. In view of this increase in the reserve, there was included in the budget for 1925 an increase of \$25,000 toward the general work of the Society from the annuity fund. It was also decided by the Budget Committee and the Board to charge to the annuity account all salaries and expenses connected with the administration of the fund.

### Budget

The year 1921 was the first in which the American Bible Society operated under a complete budget prepared in advance. The estimated and actual income and expenses each year since follows. In each of these four years the total estimated income has not varied by over 5 per cent from the amount actually received. This extreme variation was in the first year. On the other hand, the expenses have not varied from the estimated expenses by over 3 per cent. If the average of both income and expenses for the four years is taken by adding the four grand totals together, it is found that the variation in income for the four years is a little less than 1.4 per cent, whereas the variation in expenses is only about 1/10 of 1 per cent. This is a very creditable showing, not only because it covers the first four years in which the budget was adopted, but also in view of the fact that the estimates were prepared a full two months before the

\*The budget as here set forth does not include receipts by sales or donations in the foreign field. These are allowed to be retained on the field. A summary as estimated appears in the gross budget of the Society, and the actual figures in the full Treasurer's report.



specific calendar year began to which they applied. This result is the more remarkable, because the largest item in the budget covers the manufacture and sale of Scriptures in the United States. Such a manufacturing program, of course, is subject to the full play of the laws of supply and demand. It is also at the mercy of what is now commonly referred to as the business cycle, with its alternating periods of expansion and contraction.

	Income		Expenses	
	Estimated	Received	Appropriated	Expended
1921....	\$1,070,000.00	\$1,012,039.96	\$1,103,767.00	\$1,123,691.75
1922....	1,031,000.00	1,016,924.63	1,023,767.00	1,038,513.13
1923....	1,024,000.00	1,051,778.60	1,024,000.00	991,972.60
1924....	1,039,225.00	1,026,163.90	1,040,225.00	1,032,906.40

These figures show how carefully the budget has been planned. Only those who took part in the preparation of these estimates know how inadequate these amounts are to the needs reported from the field. It is very hard for those who plan these budgets to refuse the Holy Scriptures to those who have them not. It is as if the Sower who went forth to sow in the parable was forced to limit the quantity of seed he took with him because of the price of that commodity. The Budget Committee has, however, faced this problem firmly and, we hope, intelligently. May the harvest each year be a more plentiful one, and may this Society, through the increasing generosity of those who believe in its work, scatter the seed, which is the Word of God, more plentifully.

### Publication

During the year 1924 the program of discontinuing manufacturing in the Bible House was completed. All of the publication program of the Society insofar as it affects presswork and binding is now carried on outside the building. The transition period, therefore, from the use of its own plant to the use of the manufacturing facilities of others has been finished. We are, therefore, in better position to look back over this period and see what are the results which have followed. It is a difficult thing to give up habits and customs that have been long established, and to embark on a new sea. While the new arrangement demands more attention and care to safeguard the interests of the Society, it also has certain compensating advantages which may be briefly told.

#### New Space Available

The Bible House is now used only for offices and for the storage of the Society's stock of Scriptures. Almost 30,000 square feet of space has been made available for rental. The greater part of this has been turned into offices and is now rented. The full benefit of this will not appear for several years, as it is the purpose of the Society to reduce as quickly as possible the cost of making these new offices.

### Saving in Power Production

The change-over from a high-pressure power plant to a low pressure heating system was completed in the previous year, and 1924 gave the first full year of operation under the new system. A saving of several thousand dollars more than the original estimate was obtained, and further additional space was secured for storage where the three electric generators were formerly placed.

### Insurance

A further result of the discontinuing of manufacturing in the Bible House has been that the insurance rates on the building and on the stock of Scriptures contained therein have been reduced very considerably and are now at the lowest prices for many years.

### New Books

It is now possible for the Society to make use of many improved types of machinery which it could not afford to purchase for its own plant. One result of this enlarged freedom has been the development of the one-cent portions. These were first made use of in any quantity in 1923, and a new and enlarged series was produced in 1924. In English not only the four Gospels, but also the Book of The Acts and Book of Proverbs were published; and the four Gospels and Book of Proverbs were ordered in Spanish; while the Gospel of John was produced in French, German, Italian, Polish, and Portuguese. These have been very much in demand. Although they were not available in all of the languages or separate books indicated during the whole year, 4,500,000 were ordered printed. These books are actually produced and sold for one cent. They have proved, and should continue to prove, to be a great help in the distribution of the Scriptures throughout this country and, where the English language is spoken, in the foreign field. As occasion offers, further books and languages will be added to this series.

This is only one illustration. Many others could be given. Many improvements in binding have been added, which also did not obtain in the Society's own plant.

### Flexibility

The volume of work done by the Society is relatively small as compared with the great publishing plants of the country. It would not have been good business to have carried a great excess of surplus equipment. It was, therefore, difficult to plan large editions and not have their progress through the pressroom and bindery interrupted by the imperious demands of special jobs. The alternative was either to reduce very greatly the size of the edition of the Society's standard books, or to



## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS ..... *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1925

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**  
Bible House, Astor Place, New York

face the almost certain necessity of raising forms in the pressroom or releasing machinery in the bindery. It was, therefore, impossible to build up any large reserve of the most active books without running on considerable periods of inactivity. This situation is now completely changed. It is now possible to fill very large orders without any undue delay or hesitation.

[An illuminating statement on the reduction of inventories resulting from the change in manufacturing policy, and also on the necessity for large inventories peculiar to the work of the Bible Society, is contained in the full Managers' Report; but is here omitted for lack of space. Any one particularly interested in these subjects will be supplied with the Managers' Report on application to the Secretaries, The Bible House, Astor Place, New York.—Ed.]

### Publication Budget Is Balanced

By request of the Publication Committee and with the approval of the Board of Managers, the accounts of the Publication Department have been separated completely from the other accounts of the Society. A separate bank and separate books are used throughout. This enables the Publication Committee at all times to feel the pulse of the economic conditions among which it is working, and calls its attention instantly to any increase in cost or inflation of inventory. During this, the first, year of operation of this new system, it is gratifying to report that the estimated cost of the Scriptures produced and the actual cost expended were so nearly equal that it can be said for the first time in many years that the Society conducted this part of its program in the United States as it should, without making any profit or without suffering any loss. This statement has nothing to do with the Society's total work of translation and distribution or with the production of Scriptures in foreign lands.

### Bible Society Record

Another marked increase in the size of the editions of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD took place in the 109th year of the Society. By action of the Board, all donors of \$1 or more were put on the mailing list. This added nearly 10,000 names during the year. Careful revision of the mailing list and the assistance of the Post Office authorities by returning un-

claimed RECORDS, removed a large number of names. The average circulation of the RECORD at the close of the year was slightly over 26,000, instead of the 17,000 in the previous year. Messages of appreciation of the material and appearance of the RECORD are received with increasing frequency and encourage the belief that it is rendering a useful service.

It has been difficult to compress within the usual sixteen pages all the material that seemed important to print, and we have had to carry forward very interesting matter more than once. The March, July, and December numbers had extra pages, the twelve issues of the year totalling 204 pages. A total of 271,150 RECORDS was printed during the year, more than double the total of the previous year.

### Other Publications

The *Annual Report* was printed in the usual edition of 2,000 copies and issued in the fall; 10,000 of the briefer "Managers' Report" having been issued in the spring. Special literature in connection with Bible Sunday formed the most numerous feature of "Other Publications." It, with promotional literature published by the Ways and Means Department, brought the total issues of that department to 1,331,350 copies of thirteen different titles. Of the leaflets and pamphlets issued more particularly to give information about the work of the Society, its methods and results, 319,900 copies were issued under eight titles. The total of these twenty-one "Other Publications" was 1,651,250 copies. The popular leaflet "John 3:16" was issued in an edition of 600,000; while, of the old favorite "How to Use the Bible," 187,800 copies were printed. Editions of 100,000 or more of "What Is a Colporteur?" "The Only Way Out of the Dark," "Undelivered," and "Every Man in His Own Tongue" also formed a goodly proportion of the total.

### Auxiliary Bible Societies

Of the 118 Auxiliaries in the twenty-seven states which, besides looking after needs in their local communities, help the world work of the American Bible Society, all but two are continuing to carry on their work as the new year opens, leaving 116 on the roll.

### Conclusion

We believe a really great story has been compressed into the foregoing comparatively few pages. Those who, in its preparation, have had opportunity to review the details of the year and their significance, are devoutly grateful for a share in such a service to the world, and to the kingdom of God.



# The Year 1924 in Figures

## ISSUES

	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	Total
Home .....	308,662	297,541	2,301,490	2,907,693
Foreign .....	76,108	190,332	3,420,922	3,687,362
Foreign Correspondents .....	8,028	8,724	40,492	57,244
Totals .....	392,798	496,597	5,762,904	6,652,299

### \*CIRCULATION—as reported by the Agencies

AGENCIES	Workers				Volumes				
	HOME	†Col.	‡Cor.	¶Vol.	Total	Bibles	Test.	Portions	Total
Colored.....	24	29	6	59	13,713	9,927	119,677	143,317	
Eastern.....	3	18	5	26	22,794	15,784	285,920	324,498	
Atlantic.....	10	4	3	17	39,277	19,758	227,089	286,124	
South Atlantic.....	10	135	55	200	20,406	17,512	149,258	187,176	
Central.....	8	10	27	45	24,289	33,303	105,273	162,865	
Northwestern.....	2	1	2	5	42,307	57,187	421,612	521,106	
Southwestern.....	6	14	86	106	21,733	22,136	249,880	293,749	
Western.....	9	9	7	25	12,747	13,835	57,289	83,871	
Pacific.....	9	165	131	305	20,354	23,183	239,932	283,469	
FOREIGN									
West Indies.....	49	134	22	205	6,747	3,067	57,589	67,403	
Mexico.....	32	243	14	289	9,932	4,709	34,310	48,951	
Caribbean.....	8	50	—	58	6,740	5,722	31,700	44,162	
Upper Andes.....	10	10	—	20	3,020	3,127	15,578	21,725	
La Plata.....	27	100	102	229	9,106	12,042	106,050	127,198	
Brazil.....	7	156	—	163	7,392	7,381	10,747	25,520	
Levant.....	22	1	—	23	9,065	19,319	25,308	53,692	
Arabic Levant.....	22	10	—	32	6,592	8,072	131,336	146,000	
Philippines.....	7	105	75	187	4,605	13,141	43,705	61,451	
Siam.....	60	—	11	71	235	654	140,930	141,819	
China.....	21	690	—	711	22,152	50,304	2,479,375	2,551,831	
Japan.....	24	83	—	107	10,295	61,400	700,079	771,774	
Totals.....	370	1,967	546	2,883	313,501	401,563	5,632,637	6,347,701	

\*The issues of the Society are circulated by various methods, some of which are direct and some indirect. The direct methods are the distribution by our Home and Foreign Agencies and such representatives in fields not covered by the Agencies as receive direct appropriations in funds or books. The indirect methods are the distribution by the Auxiliary Bible Societies, certain missionary boards at home and abroad, the general trade, individuals, etc. Only the circulation effected by the direct method is regularly reported year by year. It is, therefore, impossible to state the complete circulation of the issues of the Society for any one year. It is presumed that sooner or later all the issues of the Society are put into circulation.

†Colporteurs. ‡Correspondents. ¶Volunteers.

## Languages and Dialects Used in 1924—171 in All

### Classified under Region of Origin

**Asia—total 68**  
 Annamese (Roman)  
 Arabic  
 Armenian (Ancient)  
 Armenian (Ararat)  
 Armenian (Modern)  
 Burmese  
 Cambodian  
 China:  
 Wenli, High  
 Wenli, Low  
 Mandarin  
 Mandarin (Roman)  
 Mandarin Phonetic Script  
 Canton Colloquial  
 Fuchow Colloquial  
 Fuchow (Roman)  
 Hainan Colloquial (Roman)  
 Hakka Colloquial  
 Hinghua (Roman)  
 Kalmuck  
 Miao: Chuan  
 Shanghai Colloquial  
 Shanghai (Roman)  
 Suchow Colloquial  
 Suchow Phonetic  
 Suchow (Roman)  
 Tin Chin (Roman)  
 Hebrew  
 India:  
 Bengali  
 Gujarati  
 Gurmukhi  
 Hindi  
 Marathi  
 Panjabi  
 Sanscrit

**Europe—total 47**  
 Albanian  
 Basque  
 Bohemian  
 Breton  
 Bulgarian  
 Catalan  
 Croatian  
 Danish  
 Dutch  
 English  
 Esperanto  
 Estonian  
 Finnish (Gothic)  
 Finnish (Roman)  
 Flemish  
 French  
 Frisian  
 Gaelic  
 German  
 Greek (Ancient)  
 Greek (Modern)  
 Hungarian  
 Irish  
 Italian  
 Judaeo-German  
 Judaeo-Spanish  
 Latin  
 Lettish  
 Lithuanian  
 Norwegian  
 Norwegian (Roman)  
 Polish  
 Portuguese  
 Roumanian  
 Russian  
 Ruthenian  
 Serbian  
 Slavonic  
 Tamil  
 Telugu  
 Urdu  
 Japanese  
 Javanese  
 Judaeo-Arabic  
 Korean  
 Kurdish  
 Arabic Characters  
 Armenian Characters  
 Lao Tai  
 Laotian East  
 Laotian West  
 Malay-Arabic  
 Malay-Baba  
 Malay-High  
 Malay-Low  
 Mongolian  
 Persian  
 Shan  
 Siamese  
 Syriac (Ancient)  
 Syriac (Modern)  
 Tai-Lu  
 Talaing (or Peguan)  
 Tibetan  
 Turkish:  
 Arabic characters  
 Armenian characters  
 Greek characters  
 Ya Tai (Siam)  
 For the Blind  
 Arabic  
 Armenian  
 Armeno-Turkish  
 Japanese  
 Siamese

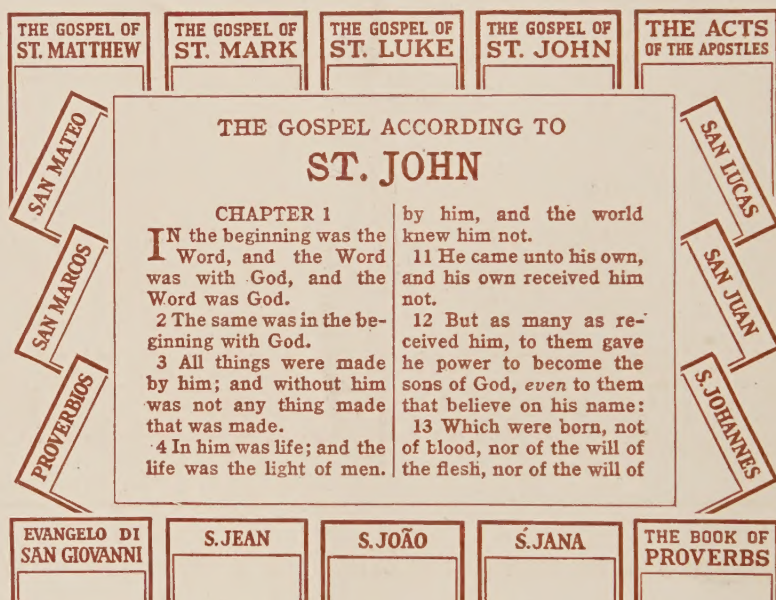
**Africa—total 17**  
 Amharic  
 Bemba  
 Benga  
 Bulu  
 Egyptian-Arabic  
 Ethiopic  
 Galla  
 Grebo  
 Kabyle  
 K'Pelle  
 Luragoli  
 Nubian  
 Olunyor  
 Sheetswa  
 Shilha  
 Tonga  
 Zulu  
 For the Blind  
 Line Letter  
 New York Point  
 New York Point  
 Bipage  
 American Braille  
 Revised Braille  
 Grade 1½  
 Philippines:  
 Bicol  
 Cebuan  
 Ibanag  
 Ilocano  
 Jolo (Sulu)  
 Pampangan  
 Panayan  
 Pangasinan  
 Samareno  
 Tagalog  
 Ponape (Ascension)  
 Samoan  
 Sinhalese (Ceylon)  
 Americas—total 18  
 Arapahoe  
 Aymara  
 Cherokee  
 Chinook  
 Choctaw  
 Dakota  
 Muskogee  
 Navaho  
 Ojibwa  
 Quechua-Bolivia  
 Quechua-Ecuador  
 Seneca  
 Zapotec



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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



A CHAULMOOGRA TREE (See page 114)



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